

Cleanliness is from Faith

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Publisher's Note

Allāh, the Most High loves the person who is clean, and people respect him. This is because cleanliness is a part of Faith. Faith has levels, and the highest of them is the statement "None has the right to be worshipped except Allah," while the lowest of them is removing harmful things from the road.

For this reason, cleanliness is from the matters which Islam encourages to be maintained. Thus Islam has legislated for us ablution for every prayer, and bathing for *Jumu'ah* (Friday) and the '*Eids* (celebrations). Islam calls upon us to be clean of body, heart and mind, in our homes, our gatherings, and the road. Our Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, was the best example of cleanliness. He was the cleanest of people, both outwardly and inwardly. He was known amongst the people by his nice smell, his handsome clothing, and his pure character. All of

this is because cleanliness is from Faith. It keeps the body active and purifies it. It protects the body from sickness and illness. The clean Muslim is a beautiful picture for his religion, and a handsome representation for his family.

Why don't we behave with cleanliness in our bodies, our clothing and our hearts? (Purification of the heart means purifying it from jealousy, hatred, malice and deception.)

Why don't we behave with this beautiful mannerism (cleanliness) in our homes, streets and stores?

We will do it, and our children will do it if we give a little thought about it, and that is the purpose for the presentation of this book.

I hope that we will learn and adopt the things we read from the manners of Islam.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

General Manager, Darussalam.

Introduction

All praises are due to Allāh. We praise Him, and we seek His help, and we seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allāh from the evils of our souls, and the wrongdoings of our actions. Whoever Allāh guides, there is no one who can lead him astray. Whoever He (Allāh) leaves astray, there is no one who can guide him. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh, Who is alone having no partner, and I testify that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾ (١٠٢)

“O you who believe, fear Allāh as He deserves to be feared, and do not die except that you are Muslims.”
(3:102)

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ

رَقِيبًا ﴿١﴾

“O mankind, fear your Lord Who created you from a single soul, and He created from it, its mate. Then from those two souls, He spread numerous men and women (in the earth). Fear Allāh, by Whom you request your mutual rights, and keep the family ties. Verily, Allāh is an Ever Watcher over you all.” (4:1)

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا
﴿٧٠﴾ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٧١﴾﴾

“O you who believe, fear Allāh, and speak a direct word. He (Allāh) will make your deeds righteous deeds, and forgive you for your sins. Whoever obeys Allāh, and His

Messenger, then verily he has achieved the great success.” (33:70-71)

Thus to proceed:

Verily, the most truthful of speech is the Book of Allāh (the Qur’ān), and the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad ﷺ. The worst of matters are new matters (in the religion). Every newly invented matter (in religion) is an innovation, and every innovation is a misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Hell-fire.

The Call to Cleanliness in the Qur'ān

Dear Children...

Our Lord, the Most Noble, says in the Magnificent Qur'ān:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ﴾ (٢٢٢)

“Verily, Allāh loves those who repent often, and He loves those who purify themselves.” (2:222)

The people of purification are the people of cleanliness. They are those who clean their hearts and their bodies. They purify their hearts from despised characteristics and despicable vices, like hypocrisy, showing off, hatred, envy, enmity, and rancor. They purify their bodies, and their clothing from other types of filth, and different kinds of impurities.

If the Muslim cleanses his heart, and his body from impurities, and his garments from filth, then he will become deserving

of the love of Allāh, the Most High. Allāh loves those who repent from their sins, and He loves those who purify themselves from filth. Allāh encourages us to purify ourselves, and to be clean when coming to the mosques.

He, the Mighty and Sublime, says:

﴿يَبْنَیْ ءَادَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ﴾

“O children of Adam, take your adornment (by wearing clean clothes), while praying at every mosque.” (7:31)

Allāh calls upon us in His Noble Book to keep clean our clothing, and our bodies, and the mosques. He also wants us to keep other similar places clean, like the hospitals, the schools, the homes, and the roads. He, the Most High, says:

﴿وَتِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ﴾ (٤)

“...and your garments, purify.”
(74:4)

He, the Mighty and Sublime, says,

﴿أَنْ طَهَّرَا بَيْتِي لِلطَّائِفِينَ وَالْعَاكِفِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ
السُّجُودِ﴾ (١٢٥)

“They should purify My House for those who are circumambulating it or staying (*I'tikaaf*) or bowing or prostrating themselves (in prayer).” (2:125)

He, the Mighty and Sublime says:

﴿فِيهِ رِجَالٌ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذُوا اللَّهَ مَحَبَّةً
الْمُطَهَّرِينَ﴾ (١٠٨)

“...in it are men who love to be purified, and Allāh loves those who are pure.” (9:108)

He, the Mighty and Most High, says:

﴿مَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيَجْعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ حَرَجٍ
وَلَكِنْ يُرِيدُ لِيُطَهِّرَكُمْ﴾

“Allāh does not want to place any difficulty upon you, but He wants to

purify you all.” (5:6)

For this reason, the Muslim is clean of heart from the false beliefs, because he believes that there is none who has the right to be worshipped except Allāh.

The *Muslimah* is clean of heart due to her faith in the religion of Islam. The Muslim is clean of body and garments because he makes ablution five times every day. [This may not necessarily be the case. If one performs ablution (*Wudhoo*) at the beginning of the day, he may remain upon purity for the entire day without having to perform ablution again. The only thing that would require him to perform ablution again is if he nullified his ablution before the next prayer. Therefore, one is simply required to be in a state of purity at least five times per day – not that one has to make ablution five times per day.] For this reason the Noble Qur’ān calls upon us to be clean, because cleanliness is from Faith.

The Messenger calls Us to Cleanliness

My children...my beloved ones...

Our Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, was the best example of external and internal cleanliness. His home was clean, his garments were clean, his gathering place was clean, his body was scented with nice smells. He is the one who encouraged us to use the tooth stick (or brush) to clean the teeth. He commanded us to bathe on *Jumu'ah* (Friday). He guided us to clipping the nails, and taking care of the hair.

Anas was the servant of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, and he said:

«مَا شَمَمْتُ رَائِحَةَ قَطْ مُسْكَةٍ وَلَا عَنْبَرَةٍ أَطْيَبَ

مِنْ رَائِحَةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ»

“I never smelled a fragrance of musk or ambergris nicer than the

fragrance of the Messenger ﷺ.”^[1]

Why does the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ call us to cleanliness? Because cleanliness is from Faith and the clean believer is a beautiful image for his religion. For this reason, Ibn Mas'ood رضي الله عنه says to us:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَمِيلٌ يُحِبُّ الْجَمَالَ»

“I heard the Messenger ﷺ saying, ‘Verily, Allāh is Beautiful, and He loves beauty.’ ”^[2]

Allāh, the Most High, has perfect beauty in His Attributes, His Deeds and His Names. His Attributes are beautiful, and His Actions are beautiful, and His Names are beautiful. He, glory is unto Him, is characterized with beauty, and He loves those who are characterized by this attribute. He is the All Knowing, and He loves those who have knowledge. He is

^[1] Hadeeth Sahih: Reported by Al-Bukhaari (3561), Muslim (2330), and Al-Baghawee (3658) in *Sharhus-Sunnah*

^[2] Hadeeth Sahih: Reported by Muslim (91), and Ahmad (4/133).